Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of rapid identification of characteristics of a transmission media channel, comprising:

generating a training signal sequence ~~including~~ of time domain signals of length T ~~signal elements~~;

transmitting the training signal sequence as an input to the transmission media channel, the transmission media channel having an unknown impulse response $h_{(n)}$, for n=0 to n=N-1, where N is the number of coefficients of the unknown impulse response;

obtaining ~~a k element~~ an output signal sequence of the transmission media channel

represented by $y_k = \sum h_n x_{k+n} + q_k$ ~~convolution of the transmitted training signal sequence and an unknown N element impulse response of the channel for values of~~ for k=0 to k= T-(N-1);

computing a reference value from the training signal sequence; and

using the reference value to operate on the output signal sequence for decoupling the training signal sequence from the output signal sequence for computing an estimate of the impulse response $h_{(n)}$ of the transmission media channel.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising using the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel to remove impairments imposed by the transmission media channel on received signals.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computing the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel comprises a convergence technique.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the training signal sequence comprises a known training signal sequence.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computing the estimated ~~of the~~ impulse response of the transmission media channel comprises computing an initial estimate of the impulse response.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising fine-tuning the estimated ~~of the~~ impulse response of the transmission media using convergence techniques.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reference value is computed off-line.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the reference value comprises a matrix $M = (XX)^{-1} X$, where X is the training signal sequence in matrix form, and X is the Hermitian of X, and

computation of the impulse response of the transmission media channel is expressed as $H = MY$, where Y is the transmission media channel output signal vector.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computing the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel is hardware implemented.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computing the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel is software implemented.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising using the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel for removing echoes from signals received from the transmission mediachannel.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising using the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel for setting the coefficients of a filter.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising using the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel for setting the coefficients of an echo canceller.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising using the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel for setting the coefficients of an equalizer.

16. (currently amended) A method of rapid identification of characteristics of a transmission media channel, comprising:

generating a training signal sequence;

transmitting the training signal sequence over the transmission media channel to generate an observed or measured output signal;

using a minimized difference value between (a) the observed or measured output signal and (b) a signal value representation of convolution of the training signal sequence and ~~the~~ an unknown impulse response of the transmission media channel, to derive a reference value related to the known training signal sequence that can be expressed as a matrix $M = (XX)^{-1} X$, where X is the training signal sequence in matrix form, and X is the Hermitian of X; and using the reference value to operate on the observed or measured output signal for decoupling the training signal sequence from the observed or measured output signal expressed as a vector Y for computing an estimated impulse response H of the transmission media channel, expressed as $H = MY$.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) The method of claim [[~~17~~]] 16, further comprising computing M off-line from communications with the transmission media channel.

19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising using the estimated impulse response of the transmission media channel to remove impairments imposed by the transmission media channel on received signals.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising fine-tuning the estimated impulse response of the transmission media channel using convergence techniques.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the computing the estimated impulse response of the transmission media channel comprises a convergence technique.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising using the estimated impulse response of the transmission media channel for setting the coefficients of a filter.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising using the estimated impulse response of the transmission media channel for setting the coefficients of an echo canceller.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising using the estimated impulse response of the transmission media channel for setting the coefficients of an equalizer.

26. (currently amended) A system for rapid identification of characteristics of a transmission media channel, comprising:

a transmission media channel;

a processor coupled to the transmission media channel, said processor adapted to execute code to:

generate a training signal sequence;

transmit the training signal sequence as an input to the transmission media channel;

obtain an output signal of the transmission media channel related to the transmitted training signal sequence and an unknown impulse response of the transmission media channel;

compute a reference value from the training signal sequence by executing the code to compute a matrix $M = (XX)^{-1}X$ representing the reference value, off-line from the transmission media channel, and wherein X is the training signal sequence in matrix form, and X' is the Hermitian of X; and

decouple the training signal sequence from the output signal of the transmission media channel, expressed as a vector Y, to compute an estimate of the impulse response H of the transmission media channel, expressed as H=MY.

27. (original) The system of claim 26, wherein the processor comprises a DSP.

28. (original) The system of claim 26, wherein the processor comprises a CPU of a computer.

29. (original) The system of claim 26, further comprising a modem coupling the processor to the transmission media channel.

30. (original) The system of claim 26, wherein the processor forms part of a communications system.

31. (currently amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the processor forms part of a modem.

32. (original) The system of claim 26, further comprising a hybrid coupling the processor to the transmission media channel.

33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~26~~27, further comprising a hybrid coupling the ~~processor~~ DSP to the transmission media channel.

35. (currently amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the processor is adapted to use the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel to remove impairments imposed by the transmission media channel on received signals.

36. (currently amended) The system of claim 26, further comprising a filter adapted to remove transmission media channel impairments from signals received from the transmission media channel using the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel.

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the filter comprises an echo canceller for removing echo signals.

38. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the filter comprises an equalizer whose output is equalized for gain and phase.

39. (currently amended) A system for rapid identification of characteristics of a transmission media channel, comprising:

a processor for executing code for generating a known training signal sequence, the training signal sequence transmitted as an input to the transmission media channel;

a communications system coupling the processor to the transmission media channel, the processor executing the code to:

obtain an observed or measured output signal of the transmission media channel related to the transmitted training signal sequence and an unknown impulse response of the transmission media channel,

compute from the training signal sequence, a reference value matrix $M = (XX)^{-1} X$, off-line from the transmission media channel, wherein X is the known training signal sequence, and X' is the Hermitian of X

decouple the training signal sequence from the output signal the of the transmission media channel, represented as a vector Y, and

compute an estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel expressed as $H = MY$; and

a disk storage medium for providing the code to the processor.

40. (original) The system of claim 39, wherein the processor comprises a DSP.

41. (original) The system of claim 39, wherein the processor comprises a CPU of a computer.

42. (original) The system of claim 39, further comprising a modem coupling the processor to the transmission media channel.

43. (original) The system of claim 39, wherein the processor forms part of a communications system.

44. (original) The system of claim 39, wherein the processor forms part of a modem.

45. (original) The system of claim 39, further comprising a hybrid coupling the processor to the transmission media channel.

46. (cancelled)

47. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel is computed in a hardware implementation.

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel is computed in a software implementation.

49. (currently amended) The system of claim 39, wherein the processor is adapted to use the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel to remove impairments imposed by the transmission media channel on received signals.

50. (currently amended) The system of claim 39, further comprising a filter adapted to remove transmission media channel impairments from signals received from the transmission media channel using the estimate of the impulse response of the transmission media channel.

51. (previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the filter comprises an echo canceller for removing echo signals.

52. (previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the filter comprises an equalizer whose output is equalized for gain and phase.